



CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2009

Contact: Andrew T. Medina
Phone: (916) 319-3686

ASSEMBLY HONORS KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

SACRAMENTO – Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D – Hayward) presented Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 9 on the Assembly Floor today in recognition of Korean American Day. January 13, 1903, marks the beginning of Korean American history when 102 courageous Korean men, women, and children landed in Hawaii after venturing across the vast Pacific Ocean aboard the S.S. Gaelic. Through the resolution, Hayashi aims to highlight and honor the contributions of the Korean American community to the United States. The resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.

“Korean American Day grants us the opportunity to reflect on more than one century of Korean American community, unity and progress,” Hayashi said. “Korean Americans have helped to enrich every aspect of American culture: from judges to entrepreneurs, athletes to performers.”

Since the Federal Immigration Act of 1965, Korean Americans have become one of the fastest growing groups of Asian Americans. In 1960, approximately 25,000 people of Korean ancestry lived in the United States, but by 1970, that number increased to 69,130. In 2007, it was estimated that 1,555,293 people with some Korean ancestry lived in the United States, representing more than a sixty-fold increase since 1960. Some notable Korean American heroes include Sammy Lee, medal winning Olympic diver; Margaret Cho, comedian and entertainer; and Colonel Young O. Kim, celebrated World War II veteran.

“Korean Americans have made remarkable contributions in every aspect of American life, especially in the fields of finance, technology, law, medicine, education, sports, media, the military, and government,” stated Assemblymember Ted Lieu, Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus. “It is especially befitting to see Assemblymember Mary Hayashi, the first Korean American woman in the California State Legislature, present such an important recognition of American culture and history.”

The Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government. Both Democrat and Republican Members make up the Joint API Legislative Caucus.

###